

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. An audio appliance for reading and processing digital audio data stored on an
2 optical storage medium, comprising:
3 a controlled drive device arranged for rotating the storage medium at a speed of
4 rotation that is variable;
5 optical sampling means for reading the audio data from the storage medium;
6 a decompression module operatively connected to said optical sampling means for
7 receiving the audio data read by said optical sampling means and for decompressing compressed
8 audio data; and
9 evaluation means for converting the digital audio data to analog audio data,
10 wherein said speed of rotation is varied in response to a type of audio data being
11 read by said optical sampling means.

1 2. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is set to a first
2 speed when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises compressed data and
3 said speed of rotation is set to a second speed when the audio data read by said optical sampling
4 means comprises uncompressed data, said first speed being lower than said second speed.

1 3. The audio appliance of claim 1, further comprising means for automatically
2 bypassing said decompression module when the audio data read by said optical sampling means
3 comprises uncompressed audio data.

1 4. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is automatically
2 settable for a continuous audio reproduction without buffering of the audio data when the audio
3 data read by said optical sampling means comprises compressed data and when the audio data
4 read by said optical sampling means comprises uncompressed data.

1 5. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is
2 arranged for decompressing lossy-compressed audio data.

1 6. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is
2 arranged for decompressing asymmetrically compressed audio data.

1 7. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is
2 designed on the basis of the MP3 standard.

1 8. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is automatically
2 determined from information stored on the storage medium.

1 9. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a compact disk.

1 10. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a digital
2 versatile disk.

1 11. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium contains both
2 compressed and uncompressed audio data.

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